

 $Canada\ goose\ with\ brood$ 

### **Thank You for Your Comments!**

We greatly appreciate the involvement and interest that the public has shown in this Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge planning process. We hope that you will continue to be involved when the Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft CCP/EIS) is released in the Spring of 2012 for public review and comment.

We received nearly 350 comments regarding the Preliminary Alternatives that were developed for review and feedback and released in May 2011. Based on comments, we will be making substantial changes to the range of alternatives and the preferred alternative. We're striving to find a balance between the needs of wildlife and the needs of recreational interests.

This planning update briefly summarizes some of the comments that will result in changes to the action alternatives. See page 2 for details.

Record of

Decision

# Where We Are in the CCP Process

Summer/Fall 2010 Initial Scoping Modificated by the public Presented by the Public Present Confidence of the Draft Confidence of the Draft Confidence of the Present Confidence of th

2

# Your Comments Will Help Us to Revise the Preliminary Alternatives

# What We Heard From the Public and Partners

Change to Action Alternatives

1 WOULD WINW I WI VIOLIS	110001100000000
Wake Zones and No-Wake zones	
<ul> <li>No-wake zone in Preliminary Alternative 3 could negatively affect anglers.</li> <li>Low water closes the boat launches in the West Pool earlier than launches in the East Pool.</li> <li>Concentrating wake uses in the west pool may be unsafe.</li> <li>Provide a no-wake buffer along the shoreline.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Provide a wake zone in the East Pool.</li> <li>Provide a no-wake buffer along some portions of the shoreline.</li> </ul>
Closed Areas	
<ul> <li>Closure of the emergent beds on the south side and/or the current no-wake zone at east end could negatively affect anglers.</li> <li>Provide seasonal closures around identified nesting areas.</li> </ul>	■ Closures around migratory bird nesting areas only.
Kite Boarding and Windsurfing	
■ Gotts Point and Parking Lot 3 are preferred launch sites.	■ Allow launching from these sites.
Fishing	
■ Don't require the use of non-lead fishing tackle or barbless hooks.	■ Allow use of lead fishing tackle and barbed hooks.
Hunting	'
<ul> <li>Don't reduce hunting area.</li> <li>Don't close the lake early to provide a youth hunt.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Maintain the same area for hunting. Separate upland and waterfowl hunters by time, not space.</li> <li>Provide a youth waterfowl hunt as proposed in Preliminary Alternative 2.</li> </ul>
Gotts Point	
■ Some people want Gotts Point opened to vehicles and some do not.	■ Open to vehicles under agreement with the County Sheriff, or increase accessible trails, or open vehicle access to disabled visitors.
Horseback Riding	
■ Allow horses on the Refuge	■ Allow horseback riding on designated trails

## **Upcoming Events**

There are a lot of interesting and exciting things going on at Deer Flat NWR that you can be a part of. Here are some of the opportunities to join us for fun at the Refuge during the next few months. All events meet at the Visitor Center and there is no charge to attend.

For more information and additional events, visit our website: http://www.fws.gov/deerflat

#### **Wild About Life Lecture Series**

Date: Tuesday, Nov 8 Time: 7 PM

Naked Canaries: An Exploration of the Beauty and Biology of Amphibians. Enjoy a photographic exploration of the beauty and biology of amphibians, the causes of their declines and their message for us all. Dr. John Cossel, Associate Professor of Biology, Northwest Nazarene University.

#### Date: Tuesday, Dec 13 Time: 7 PM

Insects as Indicators of a Healthy Ecosystem. Discover the effects of fire disturbance and rehabilitation treatments on insect communities in sagebrush-steppe habitats. Ashley Rohde, BSU Graduate Student.

#### **Creepy Critter Encounters**

Date: Saturday, Oct 29 Time: 4-6:30 PM

Ghosts and ghouls are invited to Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge at Lake Lowell for some spooky fun at Creepy Critter Encounters. Join wild creatures on this moonlit evening for a slightly scary adventure. There will be activities for kids of all ages, including the chance to see a live owl, reptiles, and insects. Create your own trick or treat bag, learn about creatures of the refuge on a spooky hike, and listen to spooky stories. Stay until sunset to hoot for owls and howl for coyotes. Come in costume for a special treat!

#### **Scout Day**

Date: Saturday, Nov 5 Saturday, Dec 3 Time: 1-3 PM

Take a hike! Make a nature craft! Earn a badge! Scout day is an opportunity to meet other scouts, have fun, and earn wildlife badges for girl scouts or cub scouts. Scout Day is held October through May, usually on the first Saturday of each month.



Storyteller at Creepy Critter Encounters

#### Hibernate, Migrate, or Insulate Winter Day Camp

Date: Wednesday & Thursday, Dec 28-29 Time: 1-4 PM (both days)

Do squirrels have sleeping bags? Do bears have space heaters? Do geese eat at restaurants? Then how do they survive the challenges of winter? Children in second through fourth grades are invited to attend this two-day, interactive winter day camp. Must pre-register.

3





U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service Deer Flat National Wildlife Refuge 13751 Upper Embankment Road Nampa, Idaho 83686

Visit Our Planning Website: http://www.fws.gov/deerflat/refugeplanning.html

Have you moved? If so, please send us You your updated address. Thank You

